

## Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-11 OES-09  
OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 L-03 H-01  
AID-05 AGRE-00 EPA-01 HA-05 HEW-04 /094 W  
-----069526 212238Z /14

O 212225Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2157

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 13716

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR, MX  
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - PERCY/WOLFF AMENDMENT

REF: (A) STATE 210590; (B) MEXICO 13519; (C) MEXICO  
12608

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES ADVANCED TEXT OF PROBABLE  
HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BUT DOES  
NOT INTEND TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL  
FLORES PENDING DEPARTMENT ADVICE ON POINTS RAISED BELOW:

2. AS NOTED IN REF (B), WE EXPECT THAT AMENDMENT AS  
TRANSMITTED IN REF (A), WHICH WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY  
RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES  
AND IN MEXICO, WILL BE PERCEIVED BY THE GOM AS A DIRECT  
AFFRONT TO MEXICO'S NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS AS  
REPORTED IN REF (C). THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM HAS BEEN  
CHARACTERIZED BY BILATERAL COOPERATION UNPARALLELED  
IN ANY OTHER AREA. THE PRESENT WORDING OF THE AMEND-  
MENT WILL CERTAINLY STRAIN THAT COOPERATION AND MAY  
WELL CARRY OVER INTO OTHER ISSUES AS WELL IF THE GOM  
PERCEIVES THE AMENDMENT AS THE KIND OF "APPRECIATION"  
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MEXICO CAN EXPECT FOR COOPERATING WITH USG POLICY  
OBJECTIVES.

3. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, WE NOTICE AN INCONSISTENCY IN  
THE WORDING OF THE AMENDMENT WHICH MAY CAUSE TROUBLE.  
WHEREAS THE FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS SPEAK OF HERBICIDES  
WHICH "ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM", THE FINAL

PARAGRAPH REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT TO REPORT ITS EFFORTS "TO PREVENT THE SPRAYING OF MARIJUANA WITH HERBICIDES THAT MAY BE HARMFUL". BASED ON THE LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, WE DOUBT THAT HEW COULD NOW MAKE A FINDING THAT EITHER OF THE TWO HERBICIDES NOW BEING USED IN MEXICO (PARAQUAT AND 2, 4-D) "ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM". HOWEVER, THE SAME LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION MAKES IT LIKELY THAT ANY HERBICIDE "MAY BE HARMFUL". THUS, AS WE PERCEIVE IT, A STRICTLY LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE PHRASE "LIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM" COULD FORESTALL ANY SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE UNTIL THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND TESTS REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE AMENDMENT HAVE BEEN ANALYZED, A PROCESS WHICH COULD WELL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS. HOWEVER, A SIMILARLY STRICT AND LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE PHRASE "MAY BE HARMFUL" COULD REQUIRE US TO URGE THE GOM TO ABANDON ALL HERBICIDE USE ON MARIJUANA, PENDING TEST RESULTS.

4. AT THE VERY LEAST, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD URGE THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO SUBSTITUTE THE PHRASE "ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM" FOR THE PHRASE "MAY BE HARMFUL" IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE AMENDMENT.

5. WE ARE ALSO TROUBLED BY THE INCLUSION OF THE WORDS  
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"CLEARLY AND READILY" IN THE PROVISION CONCERNING MARKER ADDITIVES SINCE WE SUSPECT THAT VIRTUALLY ANY ADDITIVE CAN BE MADE DIFFICULT TO DETECT IF A MARIJUANA TRAFFICKER TAKES THE TROUBLE TO REFINE OR CLEANSE SPRAYED MARIJUANA. WE WOULD URGE THAT THE PHRASE "CLEARLY AND READILY" BE DELETED.

6. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP. MCANINCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, CROP DESTRUCTION, US CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE BILLS, AMENDMENTS, HERBICIDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MEXICO13716  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780341-1123  
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**Office:** ACTION SNM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 210590, 78 MEXICO 13519  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1678447  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NARCOTICS - PERCY/WOLFF AMENDMENT  
**TAGS:** SNAR, PGOV, MX  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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